

Appendix H

Sample Duties for the Director of Agriculture Development

Taken from Halifax and Isle of Wight Counties

Explore connections with ethnic communities for marketing local products as ethnic commodities.

Promote Best Management Practices (BMP's) that improve agricultural vitality.

- ☒ Encourage increased participation in cover cropping and soil quality systems.
- ☒ Encourage increased participation in rotational grazing systems.

Provide leadership for new and innovative agricultural enterprises that improve agricultural vitality.

- ☒ Promote Agri-tourism.
- ☒ Promote niche farming.

Serve as a liaison between the county government and the agriculture and forestry community.

Develop and implement a plan for strengthening the rural economy.

- ☒ Initiate activities that keep farming and forestry businesses viable.

Coordinate the development, revision, and implementation of farmer friendly ordinances.

Serve as an advocate for agri-business and agri-industry locating in Augusta County.

Serve as the Purchase of Development Rights program administrator

Explore means of assisting farmers to achieve greater profitability.

- ☒ Facilitate new forms of rural financing and encourage traditional lending sources to continue their support of agricultural enterprises.
 - ☒ Focus commercial agriculture on high value crops for which there is strong market demand and higher producer profits.
 - ☒ Facilitate the establishment of an agricultural cooperative to access new markets and new methods, and to increase penetration into existing markets.
 - ☒ Create an organization dedicated toward increasing the rural economy.
 - ☒ Encourage the leasing of unused farm acreage for agriculture.
 - ☒ Encourage young people to seek a career in agriculture.
 - ☒ Review existing legal and administrative requirements to determine their appropriateness for a rural economy.
 - ☒ Encourage farmers/landowners to maintain or rehabilitate farm labor housing.
 - ☒ Search for additional commercial by-right uses to be authorized for the rural economy.
 - ☒ Designate an ombudsman to serve as a direct link between farmers/rural businesses and the County/state government relative to issues affecting the rural economy.
 - ☒ Coordinate the development of appropriate farmer's market facilities to provide an outlet for higher value production and as a tourism attraction.
- Develop new initiatives most likely to result in significant increases in the rural economy.
- ☒ Include the equine industry as a fundamental component of rural economic development and provide for its expansion.
 - ☒ Recruit agricultural biotechnology companies for demonstration ventures and relocation to Augusta County.
 - ☒ Recruit appropriate new businesses for location in a rural setting.

- ☒ Support tourism's efforts to promote authentic rural tourism and active recreation experiences.

Secure the natural resource base of rural land.

- ☒ Create rural performance standards for residential development that will promote greater protection for and more compatible use of the rural resource base.
- ☒ Recognize that the maintenance of a rural character through the continued use of farms is critical to cultural heritage based tourism and quality of life.
- ☒ Give greater recognition to the horse industry and equestrian activities as a component of the rural economy, and afford equine husbandry the same benefits and encouragement extended to other forms of agriculture.
- ☒ Adopt additional agricultural by-right uses and remove unnecessary use-oriented impediments to encourage adaptive use of farm buildings and farm lands and to create new opportunities for rural activities consistent with the maintenance of the rural countryside.
- ☒ Create incentives to promote and assist in the preservation and reclamation of farm buildings and structures in order to ensure availability for future agricultural use.
- ☒ Encourage the use of large lot subdivisions that carry open space easements.
- ☒ Review and strengthen the opportunities for cluster residential development to avoid high density and infrastructure dependent development.
- ☒ Carefully review the appropriate ordinances dealing with rural and agricultural land use to assess whether they are impeding the maintenance of a rural economy.
- ☒ Immediately begin the process of establishing a Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program.
- ☒ Strengthen the Land Use Tax Program as a tool for farmland preservation and natural resource management and protection.
- ☒ Develop and implement policies that will ensure and protect the availability of adequate water resources to support and grow the rural economy.
- ☒ Encourage and promote the establishment of voluntary overlay Historic or Rural Districts.
- ☒ Upon adoption of these rural and agricultural policies into the Comprehensive Plan, immediately begin implementing them by through the development of appropriate ordinances, standards and regulations.

Taken from the Augusta County Agricultural Task Force Report

Provide leadership and coordination for new and existing markets for agricultural products.

Provide leadership and coordination for sustaining agriculture programs and for improving economic viability.

Design and implement a plan to provide coordination, consensus building, legislative activity, agriculture promotion, public education, and professional organization activity by agricultural related organizations.

Provide a single point of inquiry for agricultural related issues.

Identify prime historical structures located in General and Exclusive Agriculture Zones and the names and contact information of landowners.

Coordinate the sliding scale land use taxation program and maintain documentation that a clear explanation of the program has been provided to each farmer participant.

Direct the Purchase of Development Rights Program.

Serve as executive director of the Agricultural Industry Council.

Monitor extra lot creation in agricultural zoning and recommend appropriate zoning ordinance revisions to eliminate problems.

Assist the county government with legislative issues and lobbying efforts that affect agricultural vitality.

Apply to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to have an Agricultural Enterprise District designated for Augusta County.

Review and revise the list of permitted uses in agricultural zones.

Coordinate a special focus group of farm capital lenders to study the issue of generational farm transfer.

Coordinate youth mentorship programs with the extension service and agricultural education programs.

Coordinate data on farm and non-farm tax revenue with the Commissioner of Revenue and the Director of Finance.

Provide land use revalidation assistance to farmers.

Coordinate county predator program and assist farmers to obtain vulture kill permits.

Initiate media releases that communicate accurate information on agricultural issues.

Design, publish, and distribute educational brochures that educate the non-farm public on agricultural issues.

Develop criteria for the Purchase of Development Rights program.

Monitor the use of conservation easements and assure compliance with the comprehensive plan.